

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,684,206 to Bednorz et al. Claims 38-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,304,527 to Ito et al. Claims 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al. in view of Bednorz et al. Claims 21-28, 34-37 and 45-48 have been allowed over the prior art of record.

Applicants and applicants' counsel note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter concerning claims 21-28, 34-37 and 45-48.

In accordance with the present response, claims 29-33 and 38-44 have been canceled without prejudice or admission, thereby rendering the prior art rejections of these claims moot. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims 29-33 and 38-44.

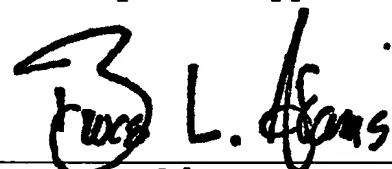
Consideration of this amendment does not raise any new issue that would require further search or consideration. To the contrary, the amendment, on its face, places the application in condition for allowance by canceling finally rejected claims 29-33 and 38-44 so that only allowed claims 21-28, 34-37 and 45-48 remain pending. Therefore,

consideration and entry of this amendment are deemed warranted under the provision of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS  
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams  
Reg. No. 25,386

17 Battery Place  
Suite 1231  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

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Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

November 11, 2005

Date